

CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A synthetic resin half-and-half bag for use with automatic bag filling equipment, said bag comprising:

(A) first and second side walls joined along two side edge portions and a bottom edge portion to form said bag, said first side wall being formed from a synthetic resin mesh material, and said second side wall being formed from a synthetic resin film material; and

(B) a reinforcing strip of a synthetic resin film extending along an upper edge of said first, mesh side wall of said bag, wherein

- 1) said reinforcing strip has a horizontal length, a vertical width, a bottom edge, a top edge, and a pair of side edges;
- 2) said reinforcing strip is formed from a single, unfolded strip of material;
- 3) said reinforcing strip is bonded directly to and overlaps said upper edge of said first, mesh side wall at a location beneath said top edge of said reinforcing strip to form an extension that protrudes well above said upper edge of first, mesh side wall, said extension having a vertical width and a horizontal length, wherein said vertical width extends from said upper edge of said first, mesh side wall to an upper edge of said extension, and
- 4) said side edges of said reinforcing strip are directly joined to said second, film side wall, without any other layers located therebetween, along seams extending at least a majority of the vertical width of said extension to provide film-to-film bonding between said extension and said second, film side wall.

2. (Original) The bag as recited in claim 1, wherein said synthetic resin mesh is a synthetic resin fiber mesh material.

3. (Original) The bag as recited in claim 2, wherein said synthetic resin mesh material is one of a cross laminated fiber mesh, a knit mesh, an extruded mesh, and a woven mesh.

4. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 1, wherein said extension is thermally bonded directly to said second, film side wall.

5. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 1, wherein said seams extend at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " above said upper edge of said first, mesh side wall.

6. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 1, wherein said seams extend at least 1" above said upper edge of said first, mesh side wall.

7. (Original) The bag as recited in claim 1, wherein said seams extend at least  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " above said upper edge of said first side edge portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of said reinforcing strip and said second, film side wall have wicket holes formed therethrough for mounting the bag on wicket pins of the bag filling equipment.

9. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 8, wherein said wicket holes are formed in said second, film side wall.

10. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 9, wherein slits are cut in said second, film side wall in the vicinity of said wicket holes to allow for removal of the bag from the bag filling equipment.

11. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 1, wherein said reinforcing strip overlaps said upper edge of said first, mesh side wall by less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

12. (Original) The bag as recited in claim 1, wherein said extension constitutes at least one-half of the total vertical width of said reinforcing strip.

13. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 1, wherein at least the portions of said side seams along which said extension is bonded to said second, film side wall of said bag have a seam strength in excess of 5 lbs per linear inch.

14. (Original) The bag as recited in claim 1, wherein said portions of said side seams have a seam strength in excess of 6 lbs per linear inch.

15. (Currently Amended) A synthetic half-and-half resin bag for use with wicket pins of automatic bag filling equipment, said bag comprising:

(A) first and second side walls joined along two side edge portions and a bottom edge portion to form said bag, said first side wall being formed from a synthetic resin fiber mesh material, and said second side wall being formed from a synthetic resin film material; and

(B) a reinforcing strip of a synthetic resin film extending along an upper edge of an exterior surface of said first, mesh side wall, wherein

1) said reinforcing strip has a horizontal length that is at least generally equal to a horizontal width of said bag, a vertical width of at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", a bottom edge, a top edge, and a pair of side edges;

2) said reinforcing strip is formed from a single, unfolded strip of material;

3) said reinforcing strip overlaps said upper edge of said first, mesh side edge wall such that said reinforcing strip is bonded directly to said first side wall through a horizontal seam positioned well beneath said top edge of said reinforcing strip to form an extension that protrudes at least 1" above said upper edge of first, mesh side wall, said extension having a vertical width and a horizontal length, wherein said vertical width extends from said upper edge of said first, mesh side to an upper edge of said extension,

4) said side edges of said reinforcing strip are thermally bonded directly to said second, film side wall, without any other layers located therebetween, along seams extending at least a majority of the vertical width of said extension to provide film-to-film bonding between said extension and said second, film side wall, and

5) one of said reinforcing strip and said second side wall has an upper portion which extends above the other of said second side wall and said reinforcing strip and which has wicket holes formed therein for mounting the bag on the wicket pins of the bag filling equipment.

16. (Original) The bag as recited in claim 15, wherein the synthetic resin mesh is one of a cross laminated fiber mesh, a knit mesh, an extruded mesh, and a woven mesh.

17. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 15, wherein said wicket holes are formed in said second, film side wall.

18. (Original) The bag as recited in claim 15, wherein said reinforcing strip overlaps said first side wall by less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

19. (Original) The bag as recited in claim 15, wherein said extension constitutes at least one-half of the total width of said reinforcing strip.

20. (Previously Presented) A synthetic resin half-and-half bag for use with wicketed automatic bag filling equipment, said bag comprising:

(A) first and second side walls joined along two side edge portions and a bottom edge portion to form said bag, said first side wall being formed from a synthetic resin mesh material, and said second side wall being formed from a synthetic resin film material, an upper edge of said second side wall extending above an upper edge of said first side wall and having wicket holes formed therein for hanging said bag from wicket pins of the bag filling equipment; and

(B) a reinforcing strip of a synthetic resin film bonded directly to and extending along said upper edge of said first, mesh side wall of the bag, wherein said reinforcing strip is formed from a single, unfolded strip of material, wherein said reinforcing strip protrudes well above said upper edge of first, mesh side wall to form an extension of said upper edge of said first, mesh side wall that presents an engagement surface for suction cups of the bag filling equipment, wherein said upper edge of said second, film side wall protrudes above an upper edge of said reinforcing strip, wherein said extension of said strip has a vertical width that extends from said upper edge of said first, mesh side wall to an upper edge of said extension, a horizontal length, and side edges, and wherein said side edges of said reinforcing strip are directly joined to said second, film side wall, without any other layers located therebetween, along seams extending at least a majority of the vertical width of said extension to provide film-to-film bonding between said reinforcing strip and said, second film side wall.

Claims 21-31 (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 1, wherein said second, film side wall has an upper edge that protrudes above said top edge of said reinforcing strip.

33. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 9, wherein said wicket holes are formed in said second, film side wall above said top edge of said reinforcing strip.

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Page 8 of 18

34. (Currently Amended) The bag as recited in claim 15, wherein said one of said reinforcing strip and said second, film side wall is said second, film sidewall has an upper edge that protrudes above said upper edge of said reinforcing strip.

35. (Previously Presented) The bag as recited in claim 17, wherein said wicket holes are formed in said second, film side wall above said top edge of said reinforcing strip.

36 – 38 (Canceled)